

**Program 7    Investigation of the Reaction Kinetics Between SiC Fibers and  
Selectively Alloyed Titanium Matrix Composites and Determination of  
Their Mechanical Properties**

Douglas B. Gundel and F.E. Wawner

**Objective**

The objective of this study is to investigate fiber-matrix interactions in selected titanium reinforced composites and to define reaction kinetics and influences on the mechanical properties of the composites.

# Investigation of the Reaction Kinetics Between SCS-6 Fibers and Ti-1100 and Determination of Their Mechanical Properties

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## Abstract

During high temperature exposure, an interfacial reaction occurs between SiC fiber reinforcement and titanium matrices which can be detrimental to the mechanical properties of the composite. The reaction kinetics between SCS-6 fibers and Ti-1100 were determined at 800 to 1000°C and found to be slower than those of other currently used titanium alloys (Ti-15-3, Ti-6-4). The experimentally determined reaction kinetics for Ti-1100 were extrapolated to 700°C and found to accurately predict reaction zone size after 1000 hours of exposure. Predictions of the time to consume the surface layer on the SCS-6 and SCS-9 fibers were made in an effort to estimate the time that the fiber will retain its strength in Ti-1100 during isothermal exposure at high temperatures. Using this approach, the strength of an SCS-6 fiber in Ti-1100 should be retained for over 20,000 hours at isothermal exposures less than 800°C. Strength predictions using the rule of mixtures for a unidirectional Ti-1100/SCS-6 composite are presented for short term exposures up to 700°C. Room temperature tests of an as-fabricated 20 volume percent fiber/Ti-1100 composite yielded a UTS of 226 ksi (1490 MPa) which is close to that predicted by the ROM.

INVESTIGATION OF THE REACTION KINETICS BETWEEN SCS-6  
FIBERS AND Ti-1100 AND DETERMINATION OF THEIR  
MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

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OBJECTIVE: TO INVESTIGATE FIBER-MATRIX INTERACTIONS OF SCS TYPE SiC FIBERS WITH Ti-1100 AND DETERMINE THE EFFECT ON MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF THE COMPOSITE.

APPROACH:

FABRICATE COMPOSITES USING:

FIBERS - SCS-0 (140  $\mu$ ), NO SURFACE LAYER  
SCS-9 (75  $\mu$ ), C-RICH SURFACE LAYER, 3.0  $\mu$   
SCS-6 (140  $\mu$ ), C-RICH SURFACE LAYER, 4.5  $\mu$   
TiB<sub>2</sub> (1  $\mu$ ) COATED SCS-6

MATRICES - Ti-1100 NEAR  $\alpha$   
(Ti-6Al-2.8Sn-4.0Zr-.4Mo-.45Si-.07O<sub>2</sub>-.03Fe)

<i>For Comparison</i>	[ UNALLOYED (UA) Ti	
	Ti-6Al-4V	$\alpha + \beta$
	Ti-15V-3Al-3Cr-3Sn	$\beta$
	BETA 21S (Ti-15Mo-2.7Nb-3Al-.2Si)	$\beta$
	Ti-14(wt%)Al-21(wt%)Nb	$\alpha_2 + \beta$

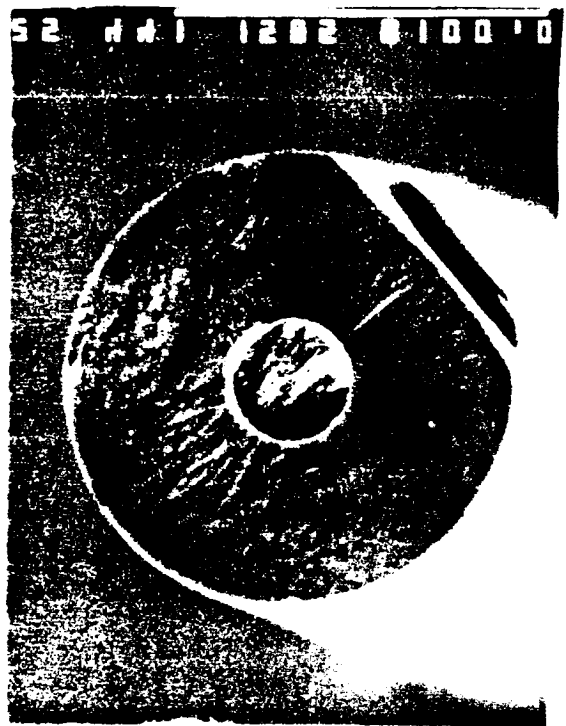
FABRICATION - HAND LAYUP USING FOILS, 10-15 v/o FIBER,  
VACUUM HOT PRESSING

THERMAL EXPOSURE - VACUUM ENCAPSULATED AND HEATED 800 - 1100°C  
FOR 5 - 150 HOURS

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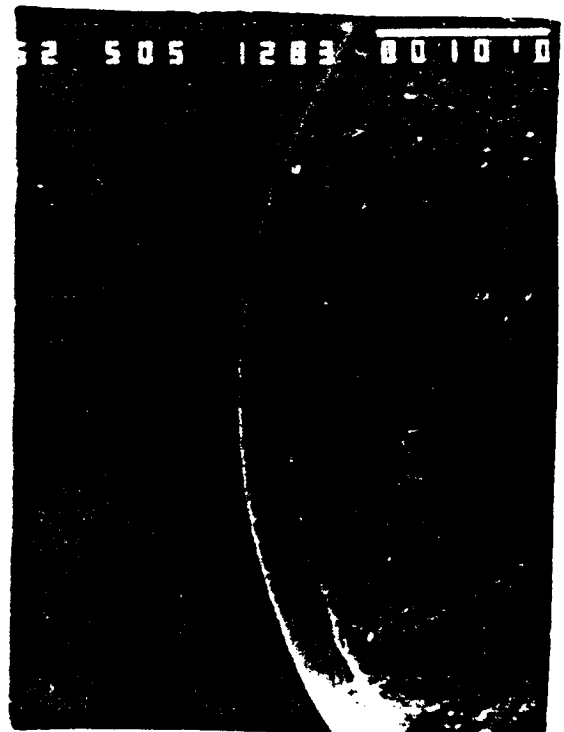
T.B./scs-6



scs-0



scs-6

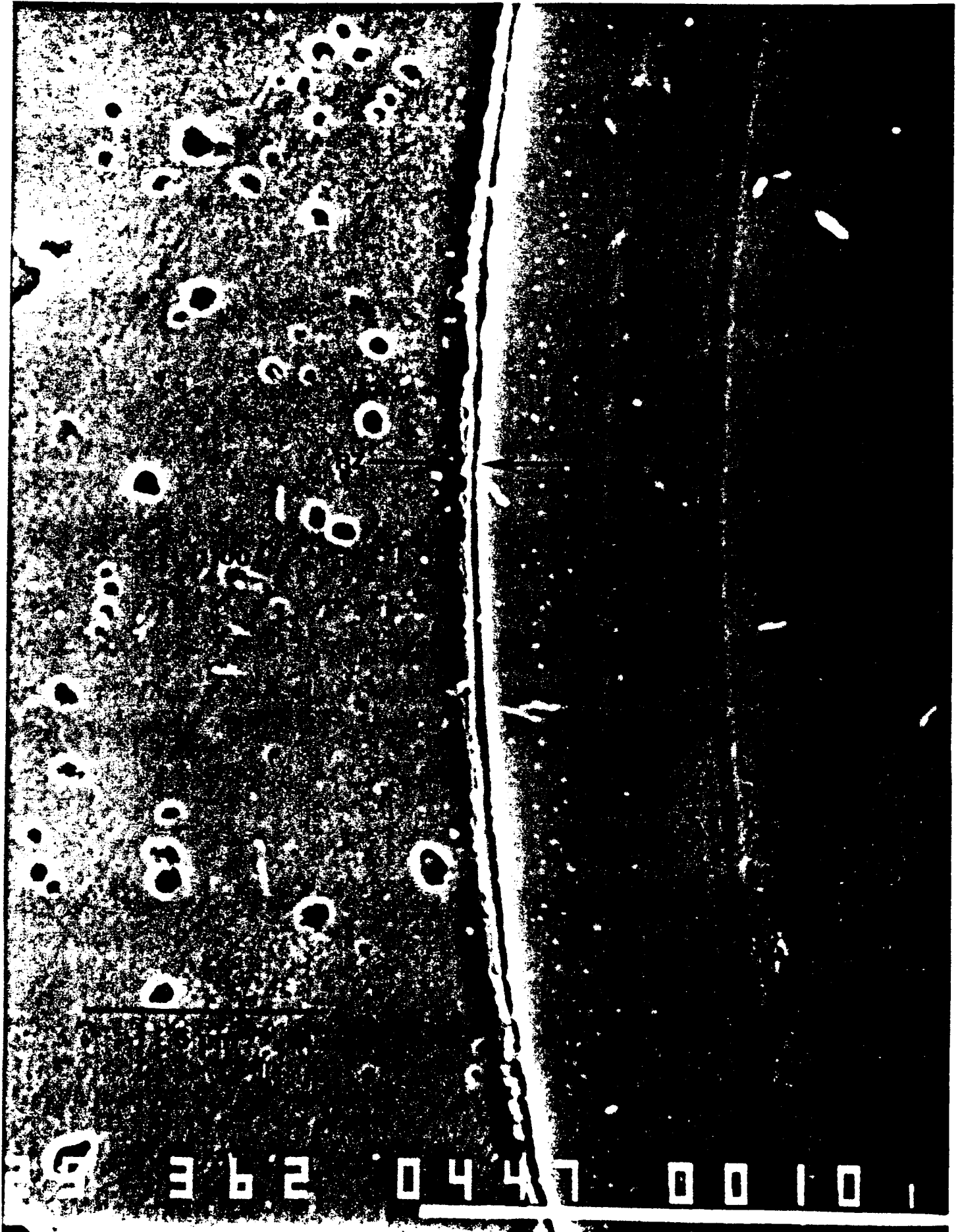


scs-9

Matrix	UA Ti	Ti-15-3	Ti-6-4	Ti1100	Ti-14Al-21Nb
Fabrication Temperature( <sup>o</sup> C)	850	875	950	975	1050
As-Fab. RZ Thickness (μm)	.43	.67	.66	.42	.58

Table 1. Fabrication parameters of the SCS-6 composites used in this study. All samples were fabricated using 15 ksi for 30 minutes.

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## REACTION KINETICS:

RATE OF REACTION ZONE (RZ) GROWTH HAS BEEN SHOWN TO FOLLOW A PARABOLIC LAW FOR THESE SYSTEMS:

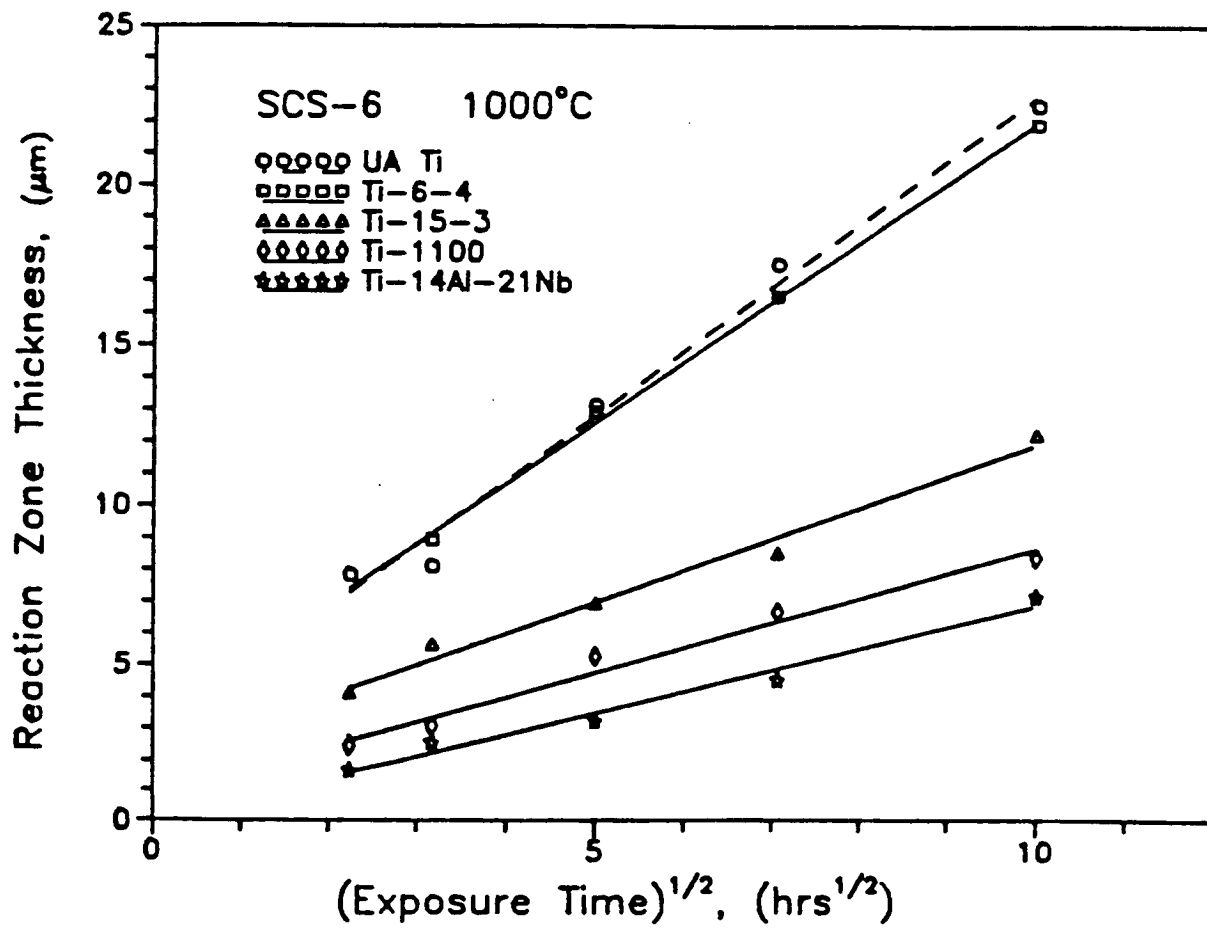
$$Z = k(t)^{1/2} + b$$

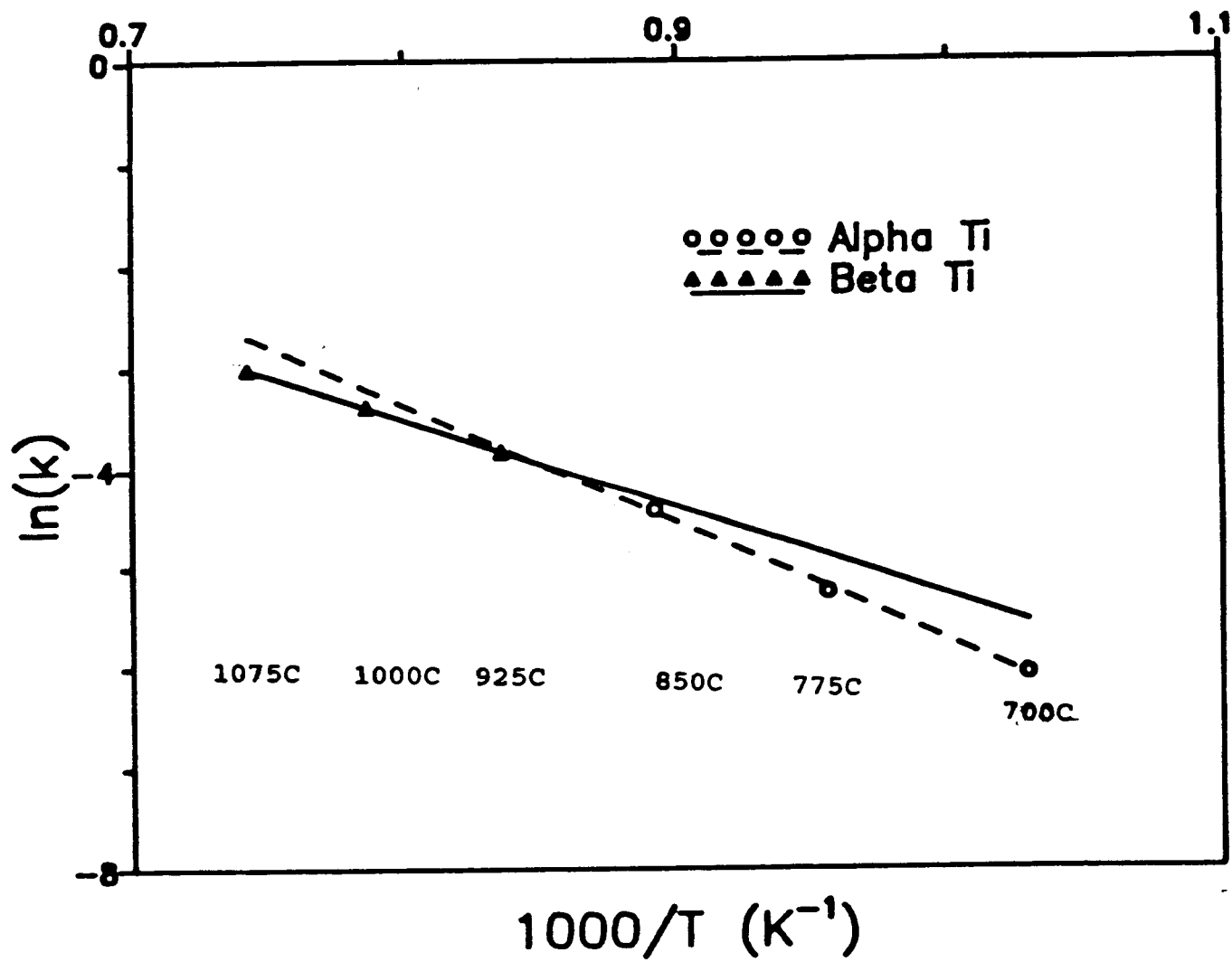
K FOLLOWS THE ARRHENIUS RELATION:

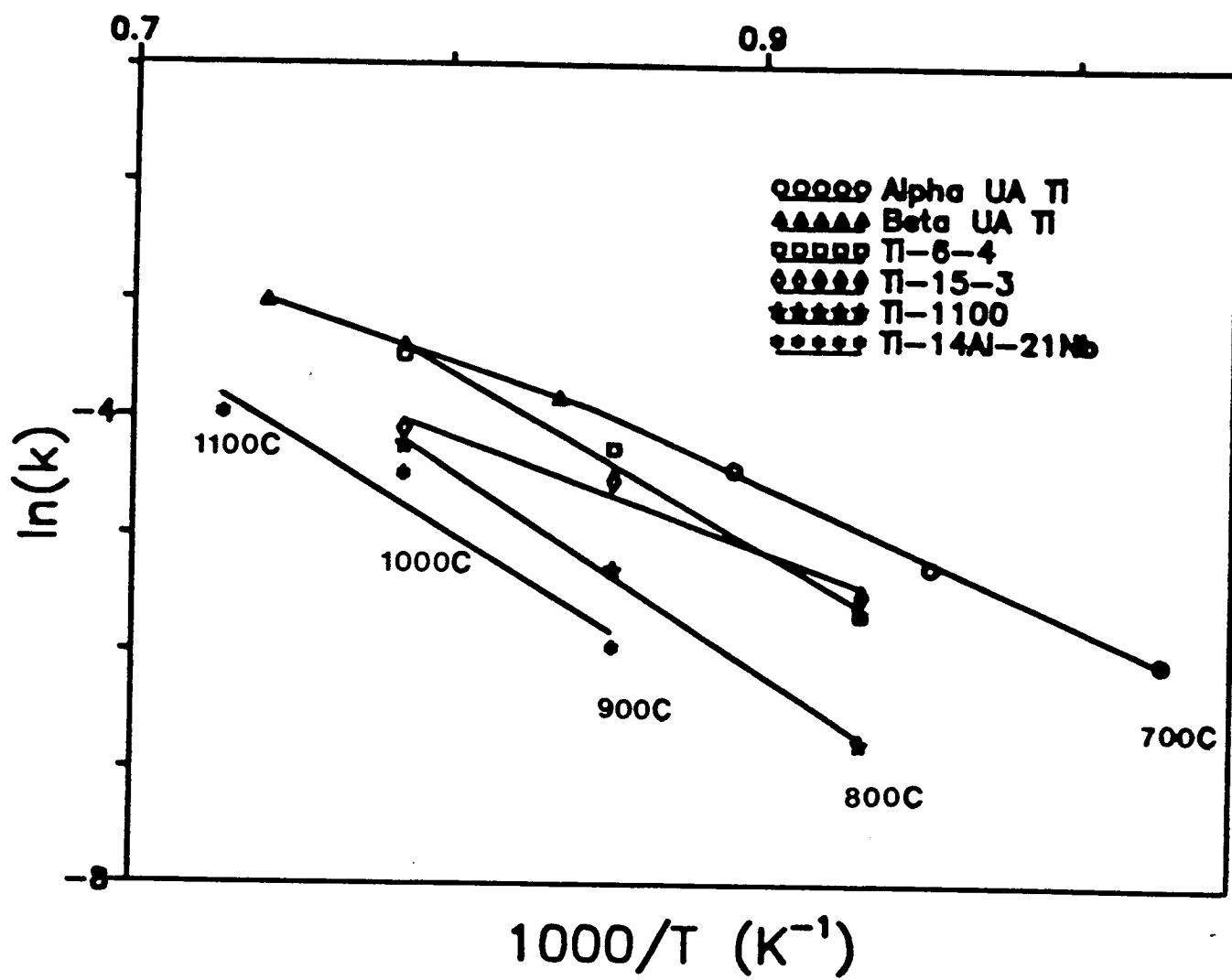
$$k = k_0 \exp(-Q/2RT)$$

RZ MEASURED AFTER THERMAL EXPOSURE BY IMAGE ANALYSIS OF SEM MICROGRAPHS







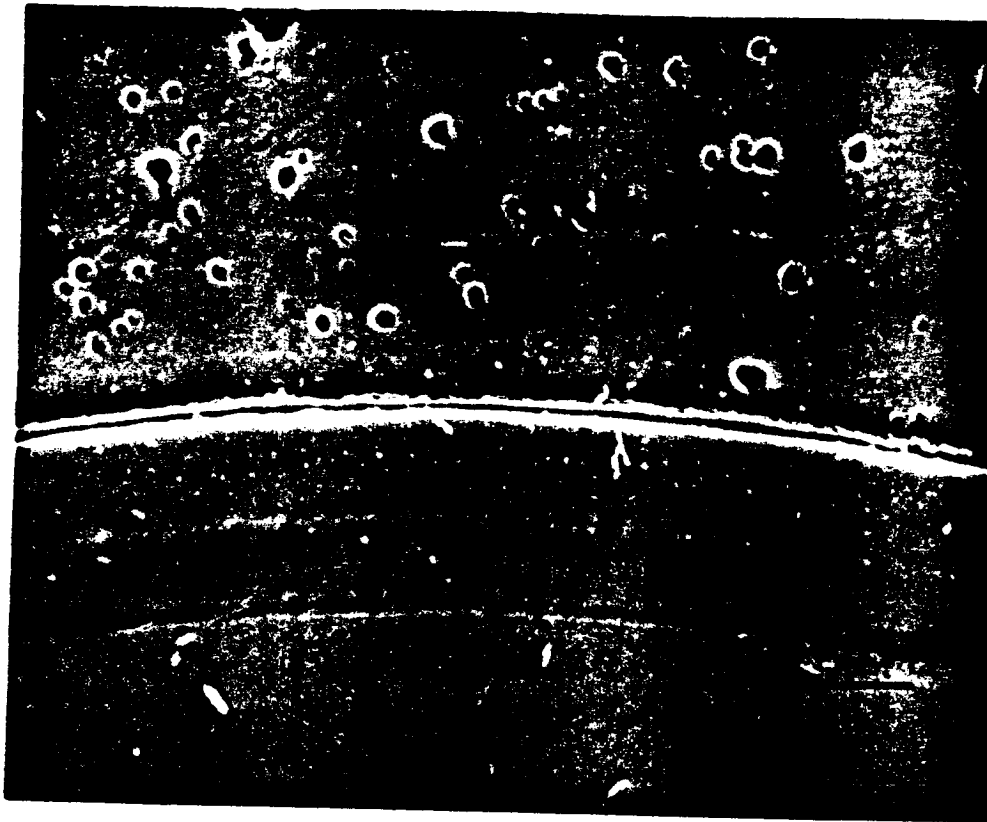


RZ SIZE ( $\mu$ ) AFTER EXPOSURE AT 700<sup>0</sup>C FOR 1000 HOURS

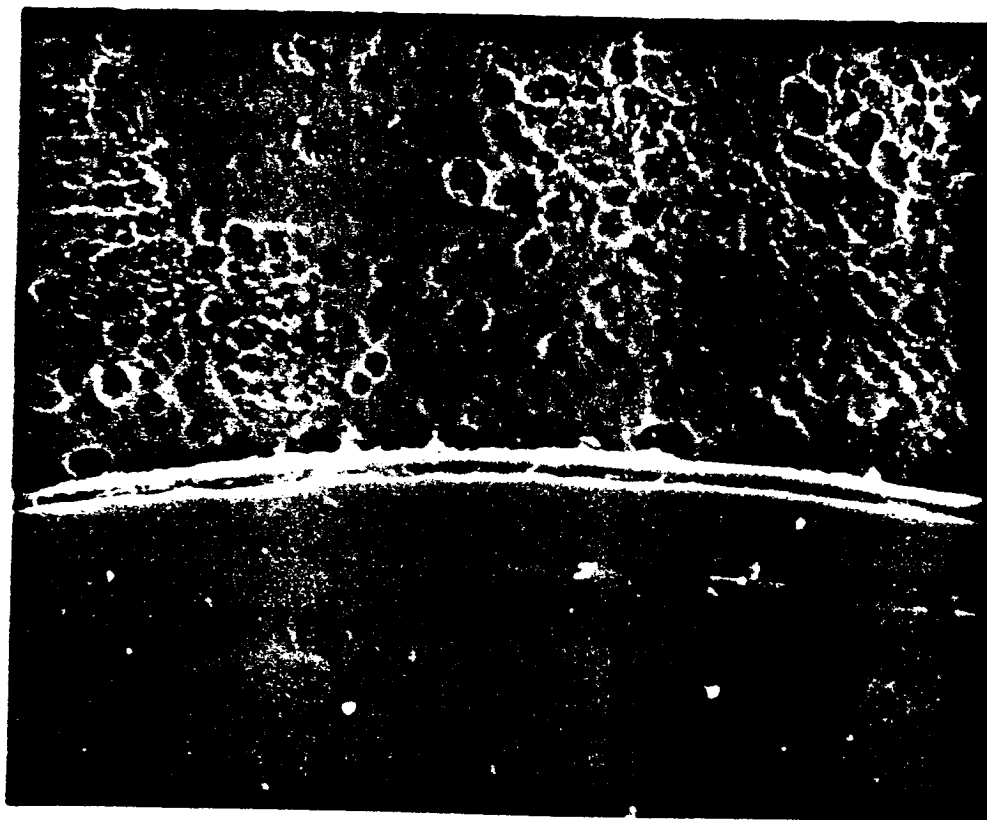
	CALCULATED	MEASURED
UA Ti	4.7	5.2 $\pm$ .5
Ti-6-4	2.1	2.1 $\pm$ .3
Ti-1100	0.8	0.7 $\pm$ .1
Ti-14Al-21Nb	0.8	0.8 $\pm$ .1
Ti-15-3	3.8	1.5 $\pm$ .1

Ti-1100/SCS-6 INTERFACE

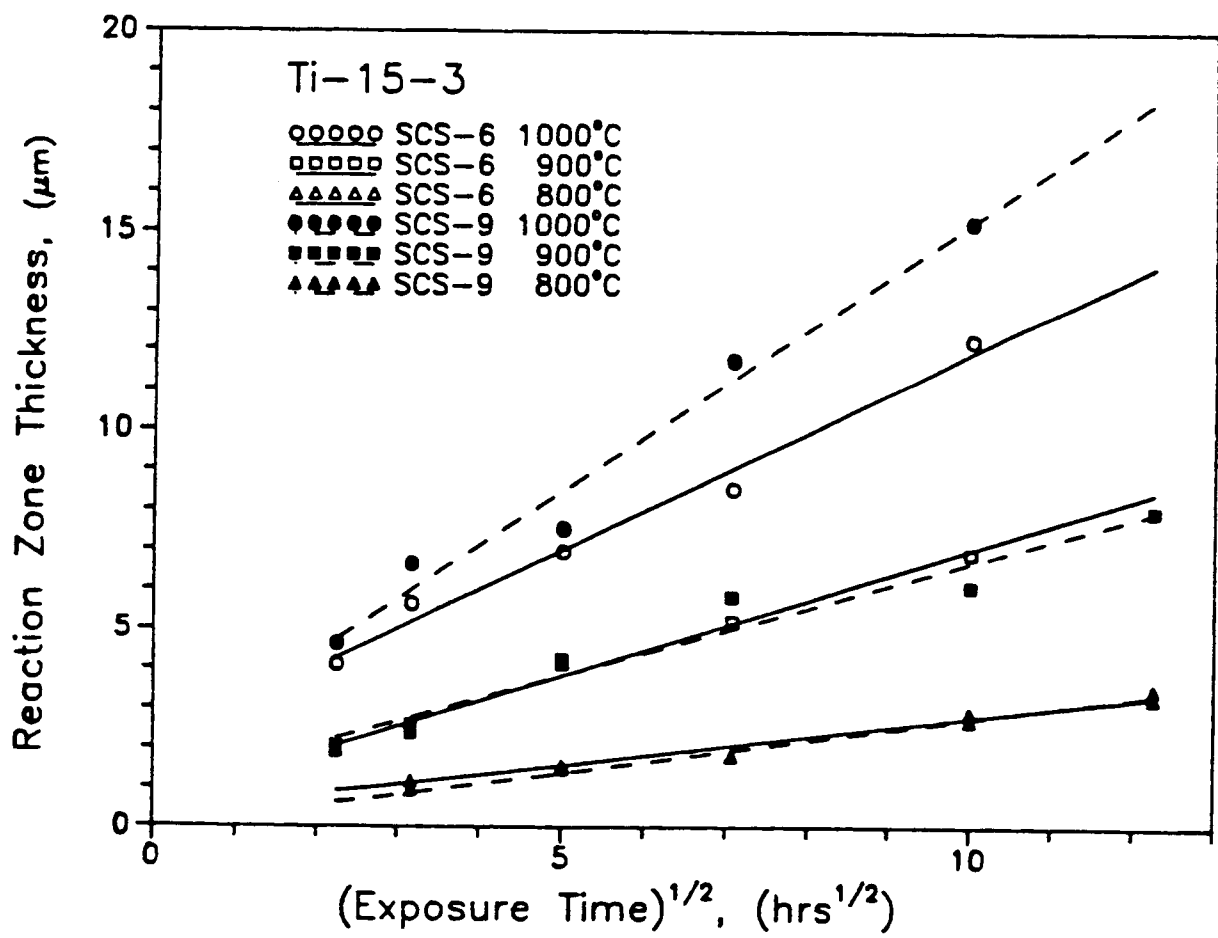
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700°C 1000 HOURS

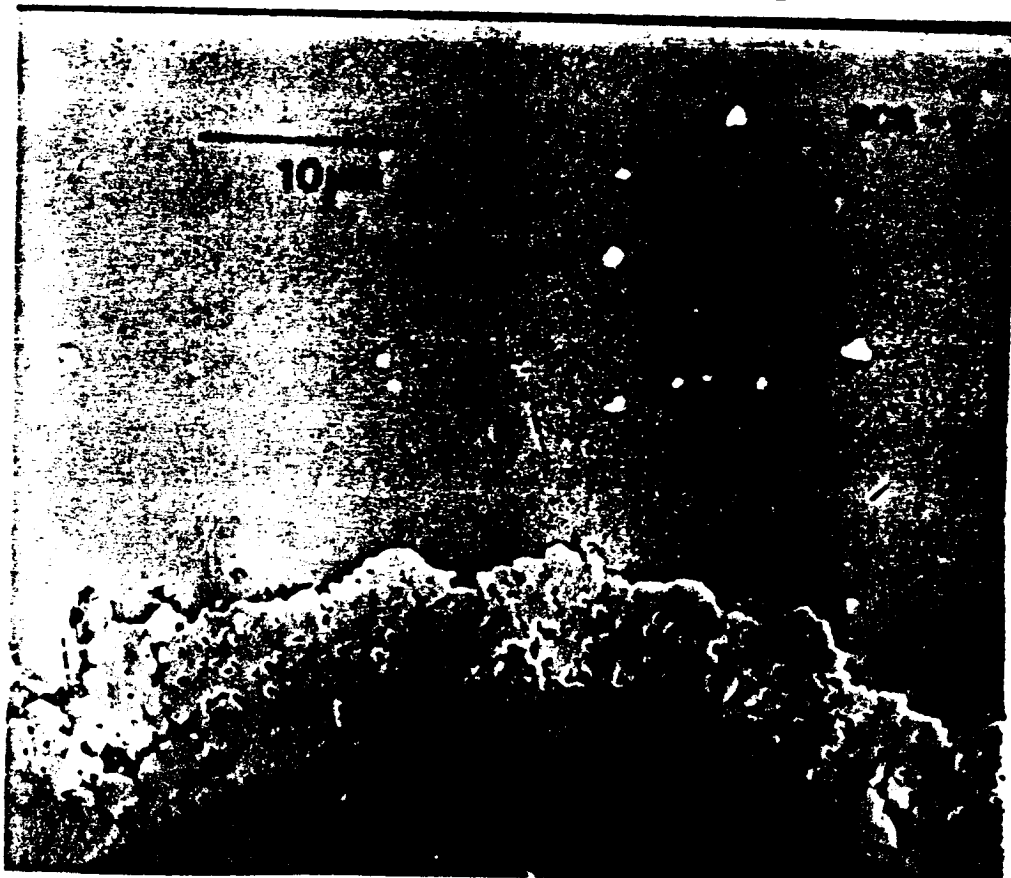


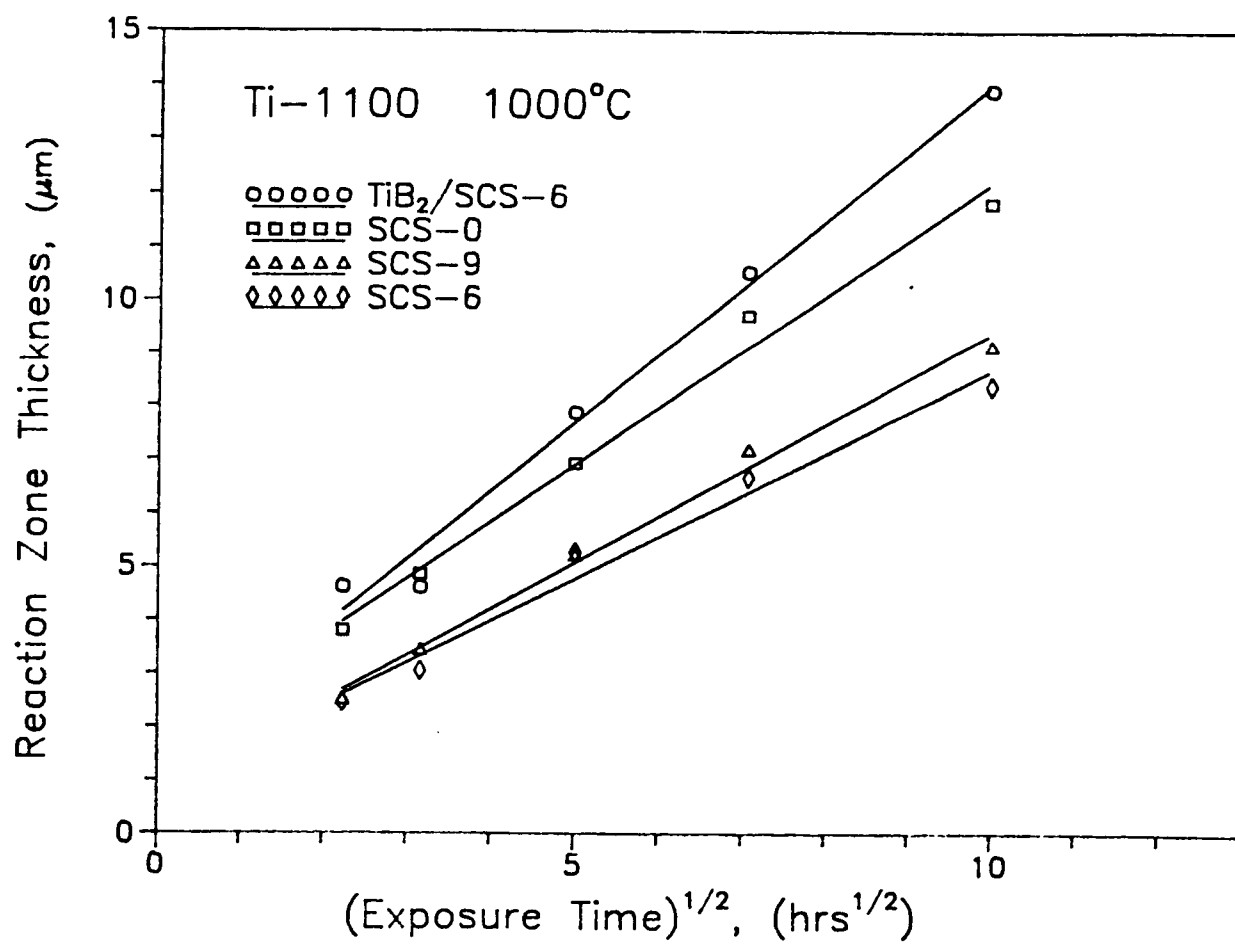
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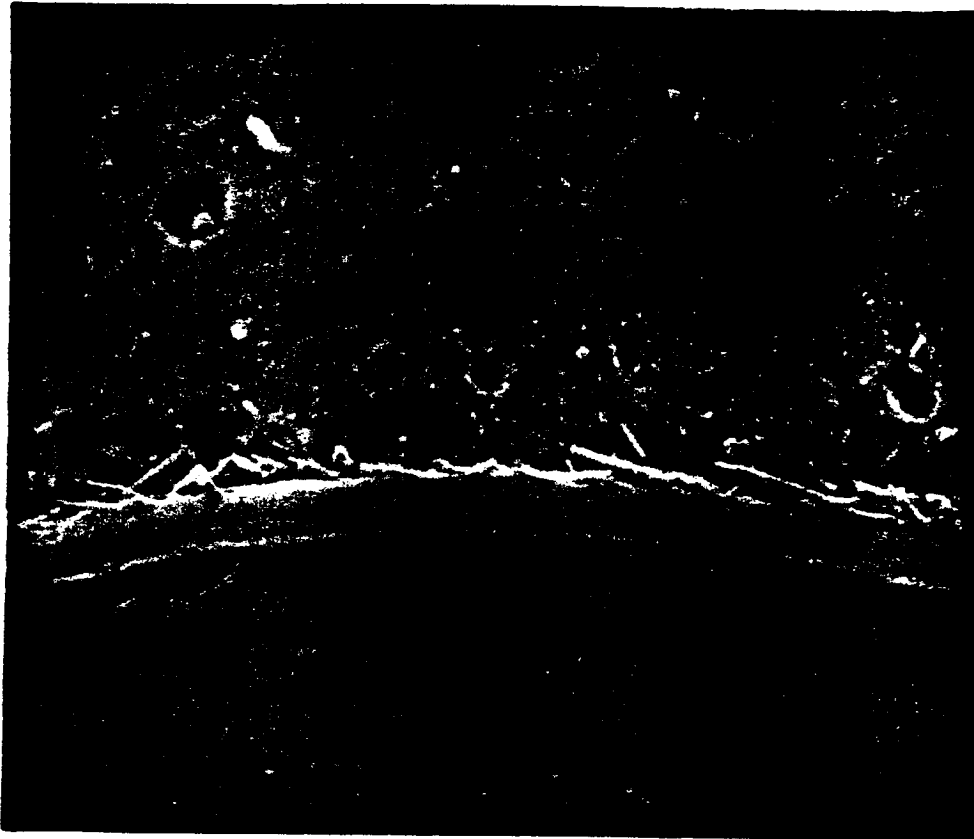
Ti 15 3 1000C 25H



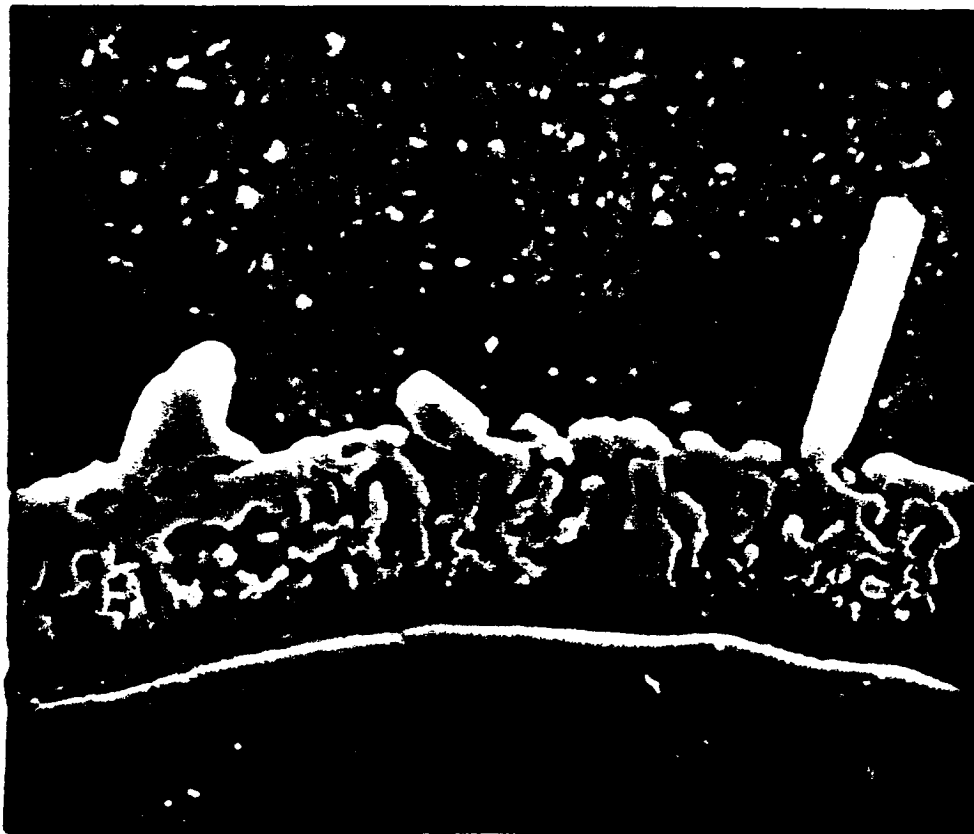




$\text{TiB}_2/\text{SCS-6}$  IN Ti-1100



AS-FABRICATED

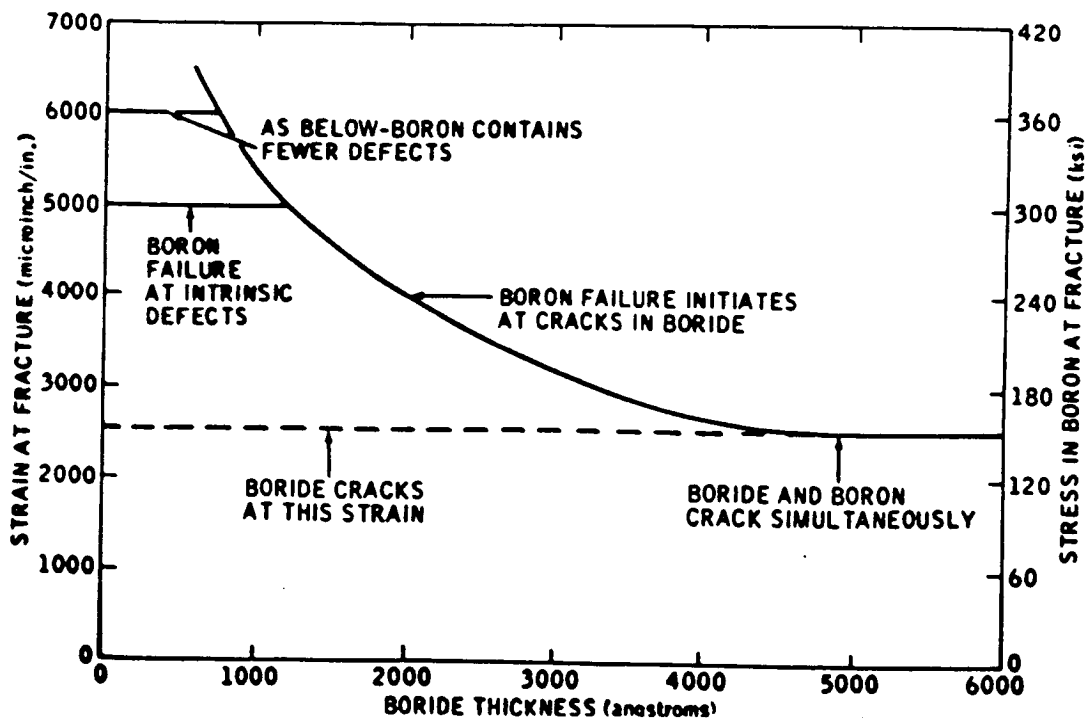
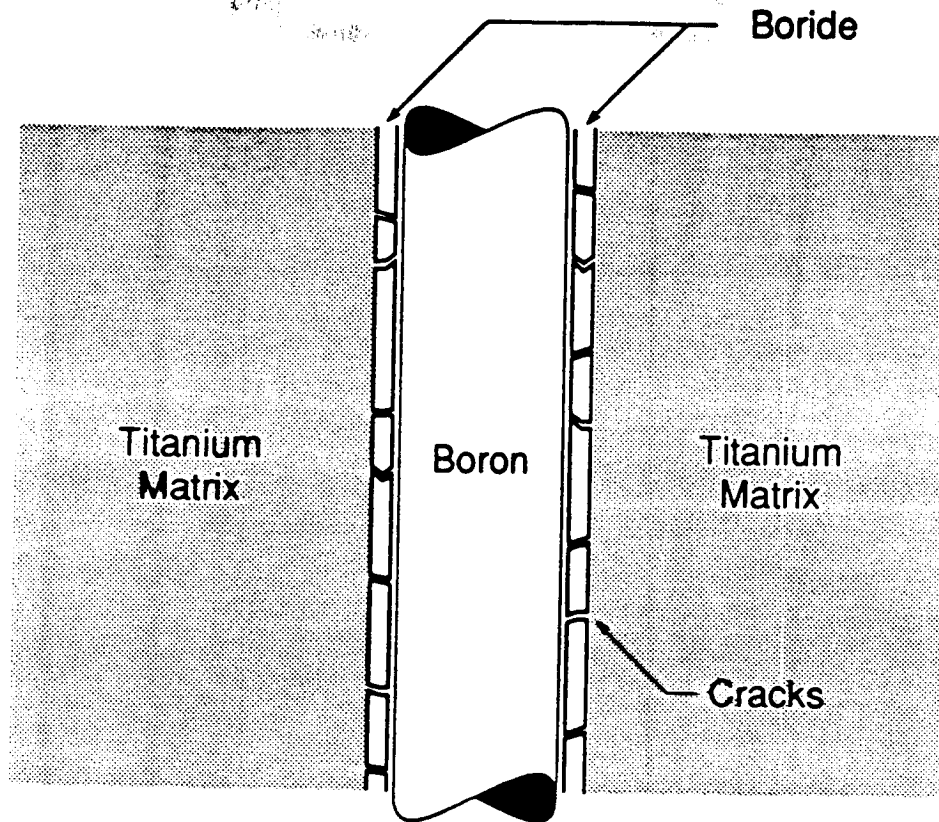


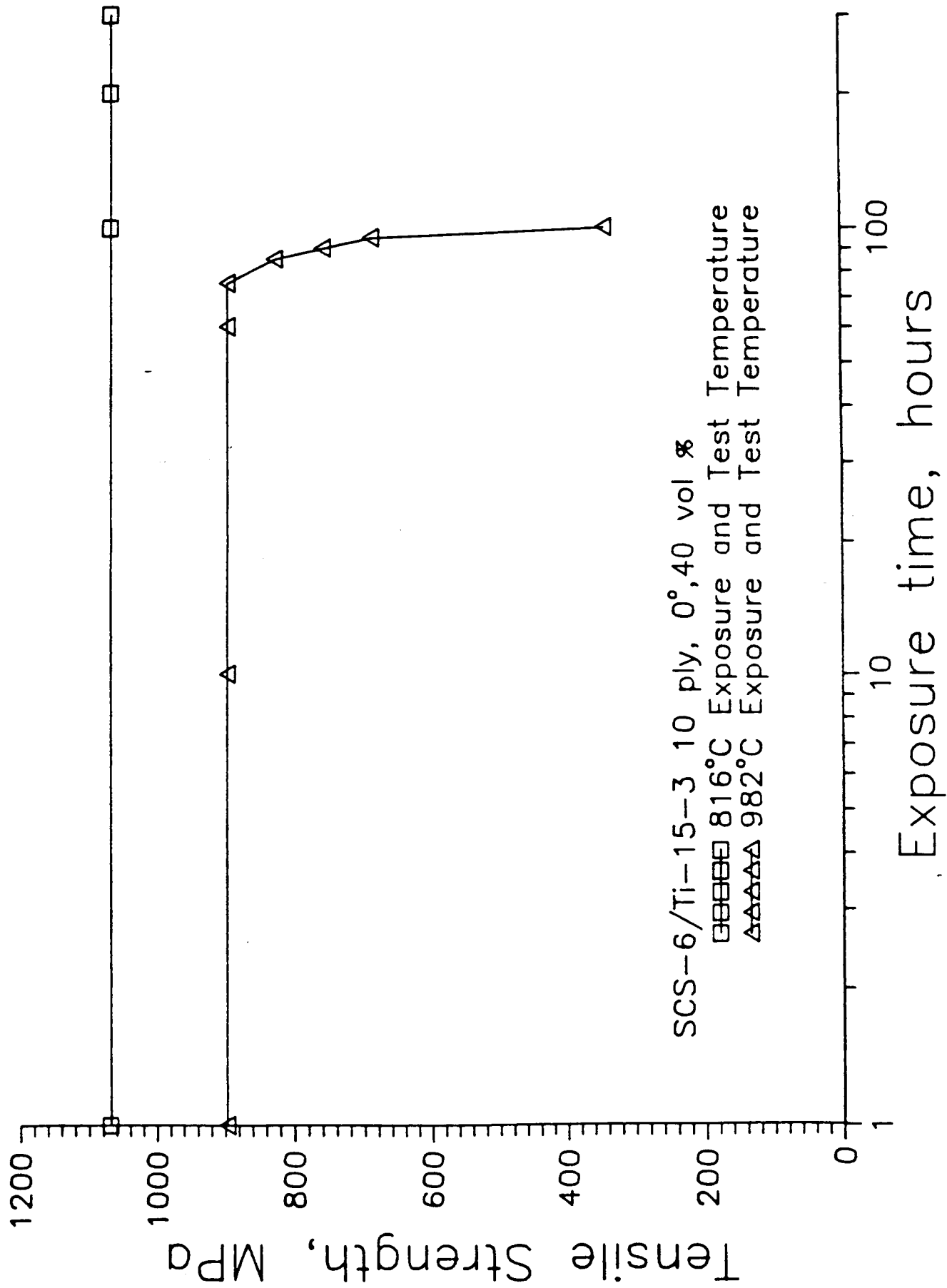
1000°C 25 HOURS

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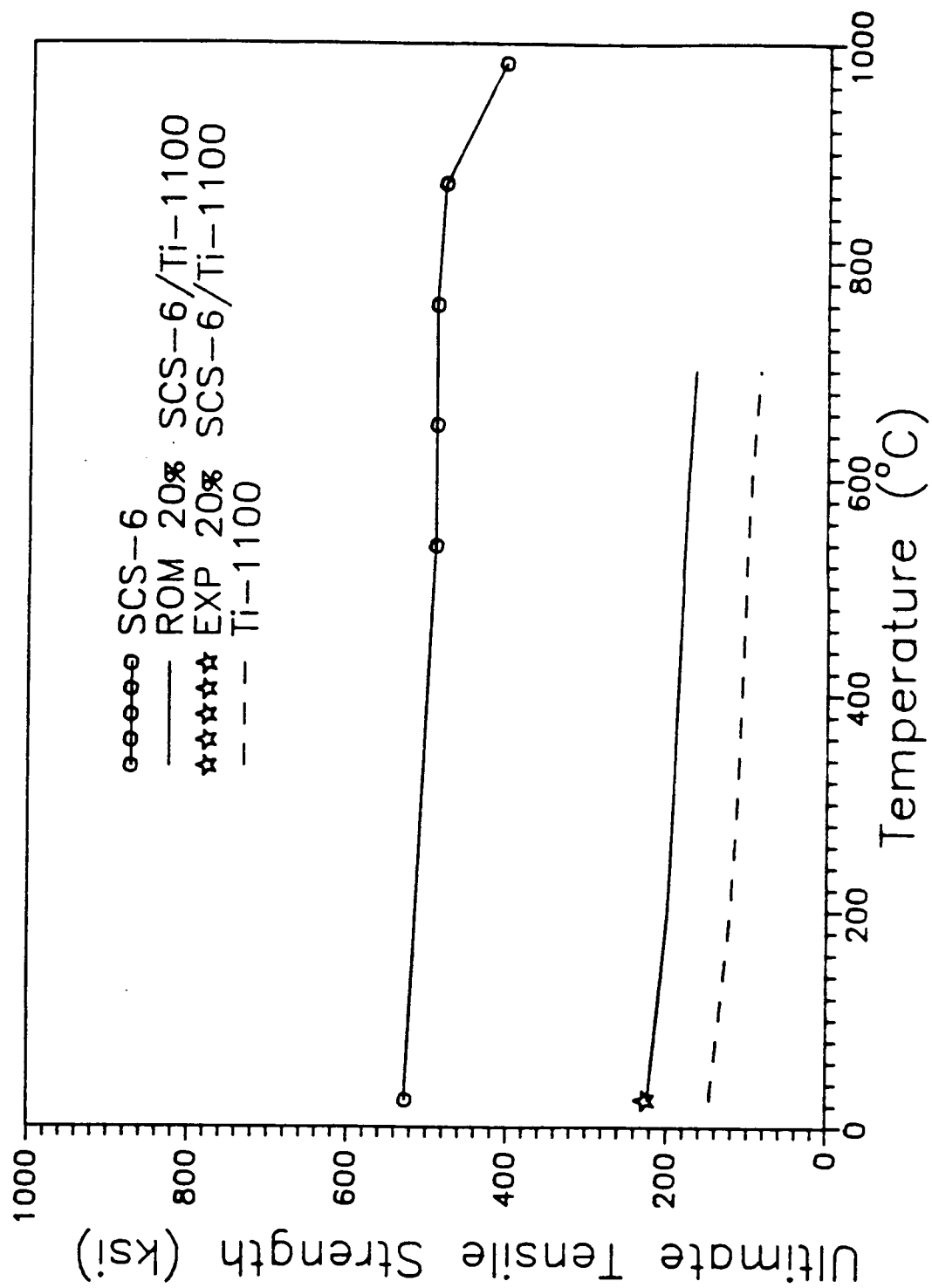


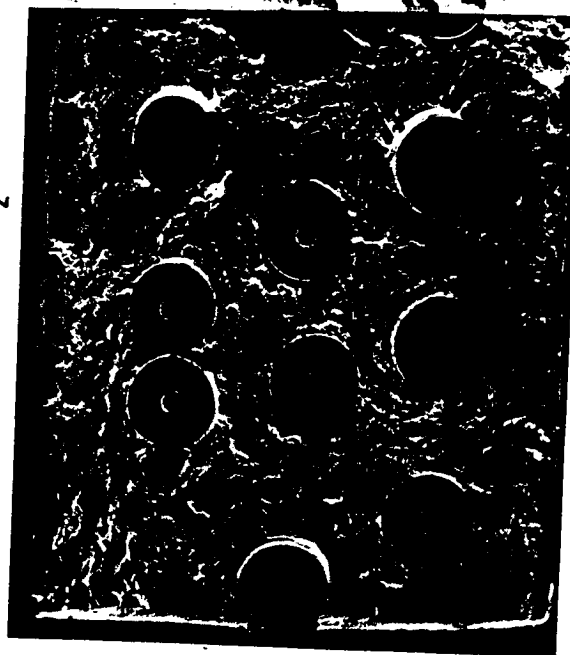
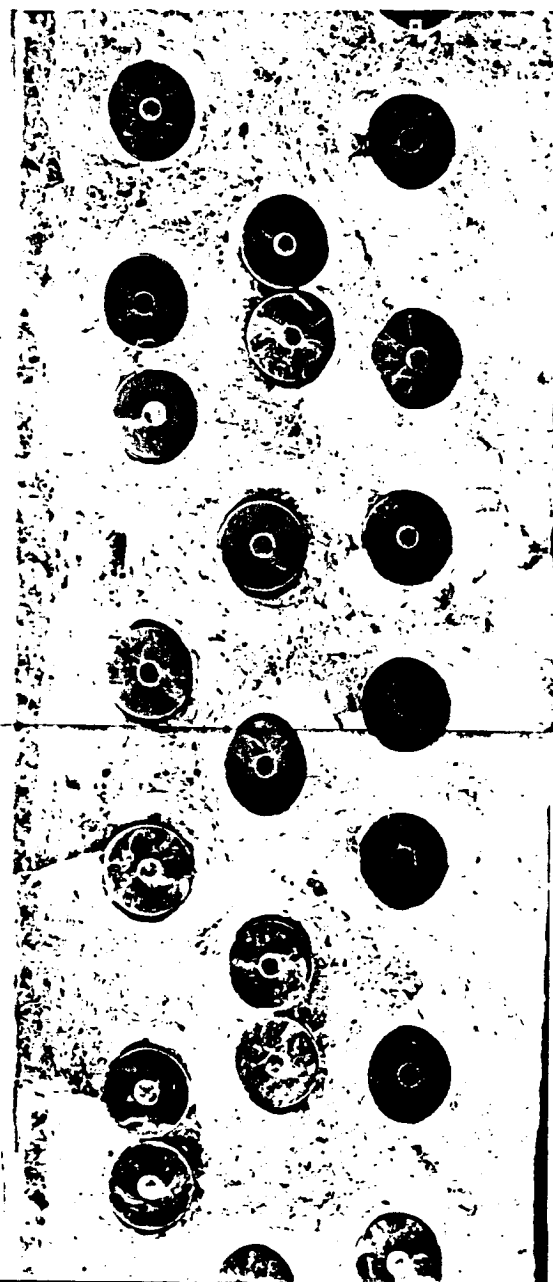
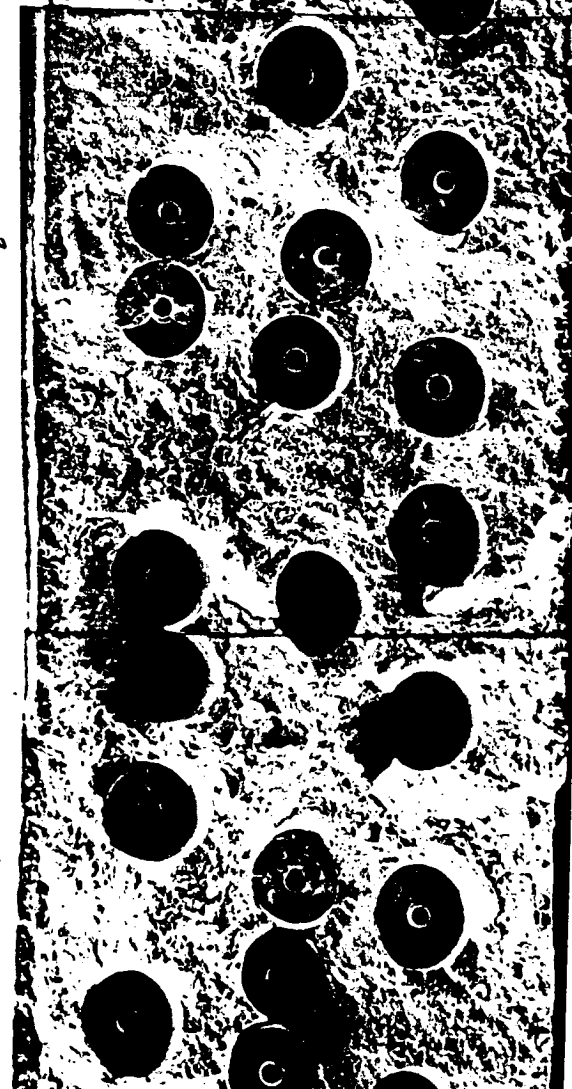
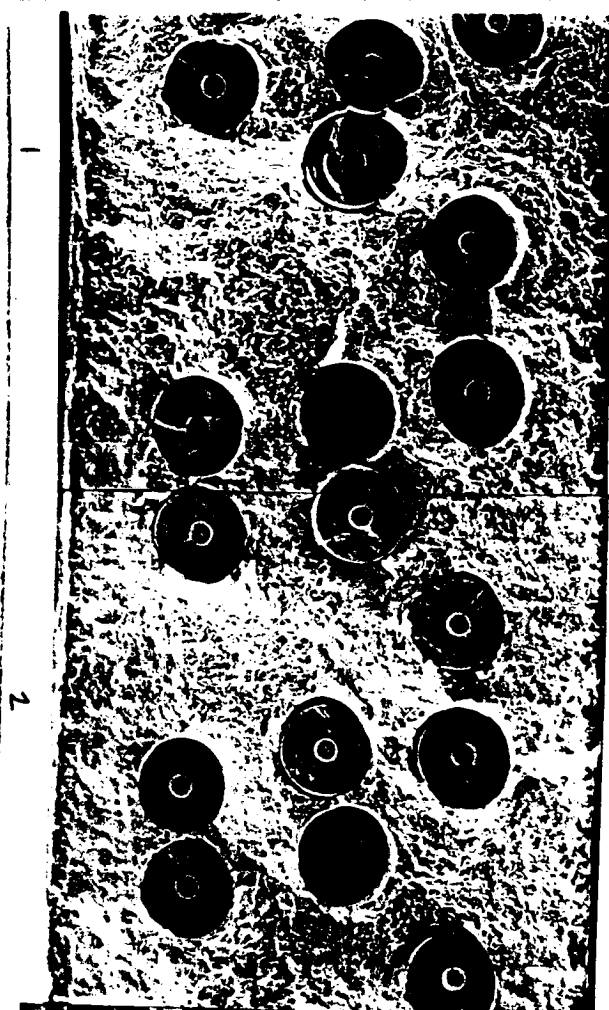


# TIME TO CONSUME SURFACE LAYER (hours)

SCS-6					
	UA Ti	Ti-6-4	Ti-15-3	Ti-1100	Ti-14Al-21Nb
700°C	7,100	51,000		750,000	1,000,000
800°C	590	2,900	2,000	28,000	58,000
900°C	87	280	420	1,800	4,500
1000°C	21	19	89	160	540
1100°C	<10				82
SCS-9					
700°C	1,600	12,000		170,000	290,000
800°C	91	640	430	6,200	13,000
900°C	14	58	97	390	1,000
1000°C	<10	<10	14	35	110

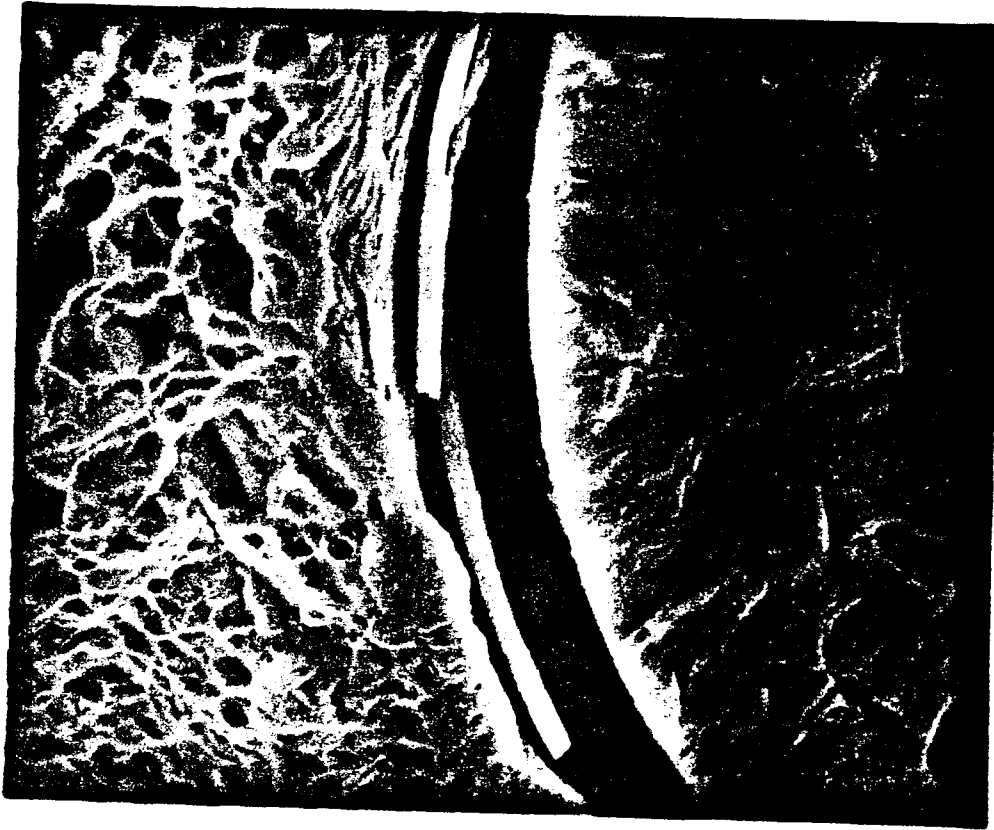
These values are the calculated exposure times for the RZ to reach 12 $\mu$  for the SCS-6 fiber, and 6 $\mu$  for the SCS-9 fiber.





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FRACTURE SURFACE OF Ti-1100/SCS-6



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## CONCLUSIONS

- THE SCS SURFACE LAYER ON THE SCS-6 AND SCS-9 FIBER REACT AT THE SAME RATE WITH A GIVEN TITANIUM MATRIX.
- ALLOY ADDITIONS TO TITANIUM SLOWED THE RATE OF REACTION IN ALL OF THE CASES STUDIED.
- BELOW  $1000^{\circ}\text{C}$  Ti-1100 REACTS MORE SLOWLY WITH THE SCS COATING THAN UA Ti, Ti-15-3, AND Ti-6-4 -- AND SLIGHTLY FASTER THAN Ti-14AL-21Nb.
- THE KINETIC PARAMETERS DETERMINED IN THIS STUDY CAN BE EXTRAPOLATED TO  $700^{\circ}\text{C}$  FOR Ti-6-4, Ti-1100, AND Ti-14AL-21Nb, BUT NOT FOR Ti-15-3.
- REACTION ZONE GROWTH IN THE Ti-14AL-21Nb SYSTEM WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE GROWTH OF A BETA-DEPLETED ZONE IN THE MATRIX AROUND THE FIBER.

## FUTURE RESEARCH

- TENSILE TEST SAMPLES OF Ti-1100/SCS-6 AT ELEVATED TEMPERATURES.
- EXPOSE SAMPLES TO HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR VARYING LENGTHS OF TIME TO DETERMINE HOW LONG STRENGTH IS MAINTAINED.
- THERMALLY CYCLE Ti-1100/SCS-6 COMPOSITE SAMPLES.